

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EUR-12 NEA-10 EB-07 AID-05 OES-03 ACDA-05 SCCT-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 /109 W
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R 191447Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4516

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1679

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 5911

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, US

SUBJECT: OAU RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA

REF: ADDIS 5772

1. DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTED THE LANGUAGE IN THE OAU
RSOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA ADOPTED AT THE NINTH EXTRAORDINARY
CM (PARA 2-0-D OF REFTTEL) WHICH STRONGLY IMPLIES THAT THE
US HAS A MILITARY ALLIANCE WITH SOUTH AFRICA OR AT LEAST
IS PROVIDING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SOUTH AFRICA. POLITICAL
COUNSELOR PETER SEBASTIAN TAXED PETER ONU REGARDING THIS
LANGUAGE ON MAY 15. ONU ARGUED THAT THE US CANNOT OBJECT
TO LANGUAGE BECAUSE IT DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT
MILITARY COLLABORATION EXISTS BETWEEN THE US AND SOUTH AFRICA.

2. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THE OAU HAS PASSED
A RESOLUTION CONTAINING LANGUAGE WHICH ALTHOUGH NOT
EXPLICIT ON THE SUBJECT IS NEVERTHELESS CLEARLY DESIGNED
TO GIVE THE UNINFORMED READER THE IMPRESSION THAT MILITARY
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND SOUTH AFRICA EXISTS. THE
IMPREWSION CONVEYED IS ALL THE STRONGER IN THE PRESENT
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INSTANCE BECAUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS ARE DEALTH WITH IN A

DIFFERENT SECTION OF THE RESOLUTION. SHOULD THE PRESENT RESOLUTION BE MADE PUBLIC, WE WOULD URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO SEND A STRONG NOTE OF PROTEST TO THE OAU. PRINCIPAL POINT WOULD BE THAT IT IS ONE THING FOR THE OAU TO CRITICIZE ACTUALLY EXISTING TRADE BY AMERICAN FIRMS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND ACTUALLY EXISTING INVESTMENT BY AMERICAN FIRMS IN SOUTH AFRICA, BUT THAT THE INCLUSION OF LANGUAGE IN OAU RESOLUTIONS WHICH APPEARS DELIBERATELY DESIGNED TO CREATE THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT THE US HAS SOME KIND OF MILITARY LINK WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS STRONGLY OBJECTIONABLE TO THE US AND INEVITABLY DAMAGES THE RESPECT WITH WHICH OAU IS REGARDED.

3. THE PRESENT RESOLUTION MAY NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. IN THAT EVENT WE WILL MERELY MAKE OUR POINT IN CONVERSATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE OAU OFFICIALS. IF LANGUAGE OF THIS TYPE IS SUBSEQUENTLY USED IN AN OAU RESOLUTION WHICH IS MADE PUBLIC, WE WILL RECOMMEND THAT THE USG RESPOND WITH A HARD-HITTING NOTE, REQUESTING ITS CIRCULATION TO ALL OAU MEMBERS.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, RESOLUTIONS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS05911
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750175-0884
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750537/aaaabhfh.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ADDIS 5772
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAU RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, SF, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006